

Listing of Claims in the Application

This Listing of Claims replaces, without prejudice, all previous listing and versions of the claims in the Application.

1. (Currently amended) Method of obtaining 2-mercaptobenzothiazole from a melt of the raw product prepared by the reaction of aniline, carbon disulphide and sulphur by pressure synthesis in a reactor, where the melt contains 2-mercaptobenzothiazole, unreacted raw materials, intermediate products and pitches, characterized in that after reaching a stationary state of the reaction medium ~~it includes~~ the method consists of the following steps:

- a) crystallization of the 2-mercaptobenzothiazole raw product from an aniline solution,
- b) dividing the liquid phase (F_K) from crystallization from step a) in three parts (F_{K1}), (F_{K2}), (F_{K3}),
- c) removing one part of the liquid phase (F_{K1}) from crystallization ~~from step a)~~ out of the process,
- d) returning the second part of the liquid phase (F_{K2}) from crystallization into the reactor for preparation of the raw product and supplementing it with sulphur and carbon disulphide with respect to aniline,
- e) final purification of the crystallized 2-mercaptobenzothiazole from step a) stirred in the aniline liquid phase and separation of the pure product 2-mercaptobenzothiazole from the liquid phase (F_R) from the purification,
- f) using the third part of the liquid phase (F_{K3}) from crystallization, supplemented with the liquid phase (F_R) from final purification from step e) and possibly with aniline for crystallization of a further batch of the 2-mercaptobenzothiazole raw product, as in step a)
- g) repeating steps a) to f).

2. (Original) Method according to claim 1, characterized in that in the step c) 5 to 20 % of the liquid phase from crystallization are removed.

3. (Currently amended) Method according to claim 1, characterized in that the crystallization of the 2-mercaptobenzothiazole raw product is performed from at least one of (1) the aniline liquid phase F_K from the preceding crystallization, ~~and/or from (2)~~ the aniline liquid phase F_R from final purification, ~~and/or from~~ and (3) pure aniline.

4. (Currently amended) Method according to claim 1, characterized in that the aniline liquid phase in step ~~f)~~ e) for final purification of 2-mercaptobenzothiazole is pure aniline or regenerated

aniline or aniline liquid phase from the preceding final purification or a solution of 2-mercaptobenzothiazole in aniline or any combination thereof.

5. (Currently amended) Method according to claim 4, characterized in that the aniline liquid phase in step ~~f~~ e) for final purification of 2-mercaptobenzothiazole is a saturated solution of 2-mercaptobenzothiazole in aniline.

6. (Original) Method according to claim 1, characterized in that 2-mercaptobenzothiazole obtained in step a) is finally purified by wash separation.

7. (Original) Method according to claim 1, characterized in that 2-mercaptobenzothiazole obtained in step a) is finally purified by washing.

8. (Original) Method according to claim 7, characterized in that 2-mercaptobenzothiazole obtained in step a) is finally purified by washing on a filter.

9. (Original) Method according to claim 7, characterized in that 2-mercaptobenzothiazole obtained in step a) is finally purified by washing in a centrifuge.